

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. made today the following statement about Congress passing the final version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"Today, Congress makes good on a commitment and responsibility to take swift and bold action to address the worst economic crisis facing our country since the Great Depression. At a time when millions are losing their jobs, homes, health care and savings, we in Congress take action that meets the urgency of the moment.

"First and foremost, this economic stimulus and recovery package is about one word: J-O-B-S! This bill will create, protect, and preserve 3.5 million jobs here in America during the next two years.

"In addition to creating millions of jobs, this economic recovery plan provides assistance to those most in need; invests in our nation's critical infrastructure; gives tax relief to families and businesses; helps state and local governments meet basic needs; and lays the groundwork for the long-term health and growth of our economy. The bill gives to the American people a life-line; and to our economy a tug boat.

"As a result of a compromise, this recovery bill may not be perfect -- but it is imperative. It provides the country with the immediate and vital first steps to get out of the mess created by the failed economic policies of the last eight years. But, there's much more to do and we in Congress are committed to getting it done.

"In the coming weeks and months, we'll continue to work with the new administration on additional recovery steps and measures to turn the economy around. Next, we must redouble our efforts to address the crisis of foreclosures as well as the crisis of frozen credit markets."

In his eighth term, Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. sits on the House Appropriations Committee, serving as the fourth most senior Democrat on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, and Related Agencies as well as the second most senior Democrat of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. He also sits on the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.